

Dr. Ines Varela-Silva

Candidate Bio:

I am a Human Biologist at Loughborough University, UK. I have been a member of the HBA since 2000 and a Fellow since 2015. My research focuses on global health and wellbeing throughout the lifespan with a specific focus on patterns of human growth and development as indicators of health and disease, the nutritional dual-burden paradox in low-and-middle-income countries, and aspects of energy balance, physical (in)activity and intergenerational components of health and disease. I am currently involved in research in the UK, Mexico, Peru, Ghana and Nigeria. My research has received funding from The Wenner-Gren Foundation, Santander Universities, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, The Royal Academy of Engineering, and the Medical Research Council (MRC)-Newton Fund UK-Peru. I am the director of [The Maya Project](#), a Loughborough University social enterprise that blends art and research outputs to portray the biosocial realities of the Maya in Mesoamerica. I also serve as the chair of Membership on the executive committee of the Society for the Study of Human Biology (SSHB).

Platform statement:

I am honoured to have been nominated to run for a position as the HBA's Public Relations Chair (2020-2024). If elected, my primary goal would be to further increase and expand the reputation of the HBA, globally. This would be done by: i) facilitating and deepening ongoing relationships between HBA members, the HBA committee and media outlets so that relevant information on events, funding, and research outcomes is regularly and broadly disseminated, ii) creating mechanisms to attract new members involved in research and scientific engagements with tangible impact, both inside and outside academia, iii) working collaboratively with other committee members, such as the international Chair, the Membership Chair, the Publications Committee and the Student Representatives to maximize visibility. This nomination represents an opportunity for me to give back to the HBA whose executive structures and members have always been very supportive throughout my academic and research journey.